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and alkylglycoside having the formula

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of CH_3 , CH_3CH_2 , $(CH_2OH)_2CH$, $CH_2(OH)CH(OH)CH_2$, and $[CH_2(OH)CH(OH)CH_2(OH)]CH$, and wherein the polymer is linked by α -1,4 bonds, that comprise at least 85%, by number, of the linkages.

4. (Amended) The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the partially hydrolyzed starch is substantially free of terminal aldehyde groups.

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10. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the starch is reduced to an icodextrin linked predominately by α -1,4 bonds and having the formula:

16. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the starch is oxidized to an icodextrin linked predominately by α -1,4 bonds and having the formula:

